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**SENATORS EDWARD KENNEDY AND MIKE ENZI RESPOND TO NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION COMPETITIVENESS PLAN**

"The states have a vital role to play in ensuring America stays competitive in the years to come. We commend the National Governors' Association for their work in outlining opportunities for the federal government the states to partner in this critical work, and in particular for their focus on quality education and job training as the primary drivers of a competitive economy. As the Governors have rightly highlighted, we must do more to ensure that academic standards are aligned with the demands of college and work so that students are graduating prepared to succeed in the 21st century economy, and it is important that all stakeholders be involved in those discussions. This and many of the Governors' other proposals have bipartisan support in Congress, and we look forward to working with them as we consider legislation to keep America on the cutting edge."